

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (New): A process for installation of pipes in shallow or very shallow water comprising:

excavation of a trench used for positioning/guiding of pipes as a pre-trenching;

cleaning and maintenance of the trench in dragging phases;

underground insertion of the pipes positioned at a required level as a post-trenching;

wherein operations are effected by use of vehicles comprising:

a tracked transport vehicle or a vehicle with tires;

an autonomous power control module that powers the vehicle, equipped with a cabin for an operator, the module being either supported by a chassis of the vehicle or detached and situated on a floating craft, connected to the vehicle;

the vehicles being assigned to transport one or more items of equipment each having one of the following functions: pre-trenching, maintenance of trenches, post-trenching, so that all equipment is present within a whole group of vehicles used.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to claim 20, further comprising dragging of pipes during positioning of the pipes, situated after the pre-trenching, and before the trench cleaning and maintenance, the dragging equipment also being present, in this case, within the group of vehicles used.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to claim 20, further comprising covering the inserted pipes as a back-filling, situated after the post-trenching, wherein in this case the back-filling equipment is also present within the group of vehicles used.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the vehicles is equipped with pre-trenching equipment and dragging equipment.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the vehicles includes trench maintenance equipment and dragging equipment.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the vehicles includes back-filling equipment and dragging equipment.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to claim 23, wherein the vehicle is equipped with an excavating device and winch.

Claim 27 (New): The process according to claim 25, wherein the vehicle is equipped with a cochlea for transferring the filling material onto the pipe, and a winch.

Claim 28 (New): The process according to claim 20, wherein the vehicle with post-trenching equipment has a digging unit including milling cutters with suction pumps.

Claim 29 (New): The process according to claim 28, wherein the digging unit is assembled on the pipe and is configured to move on the pipe itself.

Claim 30 (New): The process according to claim 29, wherein the autonomous power and control module is detached, situated on a floating craft and connected, through an umbilical duct, to the digging unit assembled on the pipe, configured to move, the transport vehicle not being present.

Claim 31 (New): A system for installation of pipes in shallow or very shallow water, comprising:

a single vehicle or more vehicles comprising:

a tracked transport vehicle or a vehicle with tires;

an autonomous power and control module that powers the vehicle, equipped with a cabin for an operator;

the module being either positioned on a chassis of the vehicle or detached and placed on a floating craft, connected to the vehicle through an umbilical duct;

the single vehicle or more vehicles being assigned to transporting one or more items of equipment each having one of the following functions: pre-trenching, trench maintenance, post-trenching,

said equipment, in a case of a single vehicle, being installed and alternatively substituted, according to an operation to be performed, whereas, in a case of more vehicles, the equipment being installed on the vehicles to allow some of the operations to be carried out simultaneously in plural points of the pipeline.

Claim 32 (New): The system according to claim 31, wherein the dragging equipment and/or the back-filling equipment are present in the single vehicle or more vehicles, the equipment being installed alone or together with one or more of the other equipment for pre-trenching, trench maintenance, or post-trenching.

Claim 33 (New): The system according to claim 32, wherein, in a case of more vehicles, the equipment for pre-trenching, trench maintenance, post-trenching, dragging, and back-filling is installed on at least three vehicles.

Claim 34 (New): The system according to claim 32, wherein at least one of the vehicles is equipped with pre-trenching and dragging equipment, at least one of the vehicles is equipped with trench maintenance and dragging equipment, at least one of the vehicles is equipped with back-filling and dragging equipment, and at least one of the vehicles is equipped with post-trenching equipment.

Claim 35 (New): The system according to claim 34, wherein at least one of the vehicles is equipped with excavating tools and a winch, at least one of the vehicles is equipped with a cochlea for transferring the filling material onto the pipe, and a winch, and at least one of the vehicles is equipped with a digging unit, comprising milling cutters with suction pumps.

Claim 36 (New): The system according to claim 35, wherein the digging unit of the vehicle with the equipment for post-trenching is assembled on the pipe and is configured to move on the pipe itself.

Claim 37 (New): The system according to claim 36, wherein the autonomous power and control module is detached, situated on a floating craft and directly connected to the digging unit assembled on the pipe and is configured to move, through an umbilical duct, the transport vehicle not being present.

Claim 38 (New): A post-trenching vehicle for installation of pipelines in shallow or very shallow water, comprising:

a digging unit, equipped with milling cutters and a roller transport system, which uses the pipe as a guide;

a tracked transport vehicle or a vehicle with tires, situated at a side of the digging unit and connected to the digging unit through an umbilical duct;

an autonomous power and control module, equipped with an operator's cabin, which powers the vehicle, the module, when the vehicle is present, being positioned on a chassis of the vehicle itself, otherwise detached and placed on a floating craft, and connected to the digging unit through an umbilical duct.

Claim 39 (New): A vehicle according to claim 38, wherein the digging unit is further equipped with a suction system.